

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MCAP, TW

SUBJECT: CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL BY VICTOR CHENG

1. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NUMMEL ADVISED SECRETARY GENERAL VICTOR CHENG OF ROC ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL (AEC) AUGUST 31 THAT USG CONCERNED ABOUT ROC PLANS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANTS AND THAT SAME CONCERN EXTENDED TO TRAINING OF PERSONNEL. HE SAID THAT IF ROC PROCEEDED WITH ITS PLANS SOME COUNTRIES WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT APPLICATIONS TO WHICH ROC INTENDS TO PUT ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT USG IS ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH ROC TO MAXIMUM EXTENT IN AREAS WHERE THERE NO PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

2. (CHENG/HUMMEL CONVERSATION WAS FOLLOW-ON TO AUGUST 29 MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG AND DR. ABRAHAM FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, AEC. AT THIS MEETING DR. FRIEDMAN TOLD CHENG THAT AEC HAD
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SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ROC PLANS TO ACQUIRE REPROCESSING

PLANT, AND THAT THIS CONCERN EXTENDED TO UNWILLINGNESS TO TRAIN ROC PERSONNEL IN REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.)

3. SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG BEGAN BY REVIEWING TAIWAN POWER COMPANY'S (TAIPOWER'S) NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANS OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. HE NOTED THAT ROC MAY WISH TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT AFTER 1985, BUT THAT IT WISHED TO BEGIN TRAINING OF PEOPLE IN REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY IMMEDIATELY. CHENG SAID TAIPOWER NEEDS PEOPLE WITH EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY SO THAT IT WILL HAVE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DECIDE, FOUR YEARS OR MORE FROM NOW, WHETHER TO REPROCESS ON TAIWAN OR CONTINUE TO CONTRACT REPROCESSING ABROAD. NATURALLY, CHENG SAID, ROC WOULD CONSULT WITH USG BEFORE DECISION MADE.

4. MR. HUMMEL SAID THAT USG HAD MADE KNOWN ITS CONCERN ABOUT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EFFECTS OF ROC ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING PLANT TO ROC AFTER SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG LEFT TAIWAN ON CURRENT TRIP. HE NOTED THAT REPROCESSING PLANT NOT ECONOMIC FOR REASONS OF SCALE AND THAT ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING PLANT COULD IMPERIL ROC'S REMAINING IAEA LINKS AND IAEA SAFEGUARDS PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT CONTINUED ROC INTEREST IN REPROCESSING COULD CAUSE SOME COUNTRIES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT APPLICATIONS TO WHICH ROC INTENDS TO PUT ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

5. SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG RESPONDED THAT ROC NOT CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF ANY EQUIPMENT AT MOMENT, BUT WAS THINKING ONLY OF ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE WHICH COULD BE USED LATER. TAIPOWER, HE SAID, INTERESTED ONLY IN TRAINING AND ONLY AFTER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS WOULD PEOPLE TRAINED IN REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY MAKE RECOMMENDATION ON EQUIPMENT. ROC, IF IT APPROVED RECOMMENDATION, WOULD THEN, HE SAID, DISCUSS MATTER WITH USG BEFORE PROCEEDING. CHENG SAID HE HOPED THERE WAS NO CONFUSION ON THIS MATTER.

6. MR. HUMMEL RESPONDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONFUSION. QUESTION OF TRAINING AND QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BY DR. FRIEDMAN. USG AWARE, HE SAID, THAT ROC HAS NO INTENTION OF BUYING EQUIPMENT AT
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PRESENT; USG ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT TRAINING. HE ADDED THAT USG WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH ROC TO MAXIMUM EXTENT IN AREAS WHERE THERE NO PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS.

7. SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG NOTED THAT DR. FRIEDMAN HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF TRIP TO TAIWAN NEAR FUTURE WITH SMALL GROUP TO LOOK AT ROC NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND FACILITIES. MR. HUMMEL SAID SUCH A TRIP WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT

THAT DETAILS NOT YET WORKED OUT. RUSH

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